

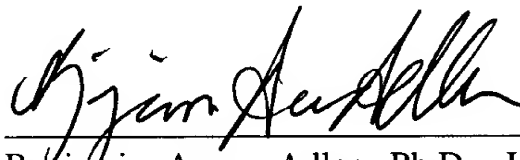
HIV-1 protein, wherein said bacterial host can induce anti-HIV-1 immune responses. The specification has provided detailed disclosure on the making of the recombinant plasmid and the bacterial host (Examples 1-6) as well as the induction of anti-HIV-1 immune responses by the attenuated bacterial host (Examples 7-9). Hence, Applicants submit that the claims on the attenuated bacterial host are fully supported and enabled in the specification.

Claims 6-10 are drawn to a method of initiating immune responses specific for HIV-1 antigens in an individual by the attenuated bacterial host disclosed herein. The specification has provided detailed disclosure on the induction of anti-HIV-1 immune responses by the attenuated bacterial host (Examples 7-9). Hence, Applicants submit that the claimed method is fully supported and enabled in the specification. The Examiner has not provided any scientific evidence that Applicants' attenuated bacterial host would not initiate an immune response specific for HIV-1 antigens in an individual. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed October 17, 2000. If any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record for immediate resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

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